

the Peninsula ; but I propose, on some future occasion, to publish in this Magazine a complete list of the species that have come under my notice, either in a wild state or in collections, with their scientific and local Spanish names, and the localities in which I met with them.

Lilford, August 1866.

see 1869 p 170

XXXI.—*Ornithological Notes from Formosa*. By ROBERT SWINHOE, Her Majesty's Consul at Taiwan, F.Z.S., &c.

(Plate XI.)

[Continued from p. 316.] ✓

I RETURNED from the mountains, having penetrated to about the centre of the island. I was there arranging to climb across to Black Rock Bay, on the east side, when a letter reached me, and caused me to hurry back with all speed to Takow. It brought me instructions to repair by first vessel to Amoy to take charge of the consulate there. I was altogether ten days in the interior ; but as I am now hurried I must defer my sketch of the trip for a future paper. I bid a long farewell to Formosa in a few days. I will, however, attempt, before I leave, to finish my descriptions of novelties and the like. I commence with

✓ *Myiomela montium*, nobis (Ibis, 1864, p. 362), ♀. Wing 3·5 inches. Bill blackish-brown. Legs brown, claws paler. Plumage olivaceous, tinged in parts with buff ; throat paler, with roots of feathers whitish. A concealed white spot on side of the neck. Abdomen more or less grey, its middle pure white. Axillaries olive-buff. Under margins of remiges light reddish-buff, making the under part of closed wing reddish on its inner half. Quills edged exteriorly with reddish olive-brown. Rectrices olive-brown ; the second to the fifth (the outermost being counted as first) having white on the outer web, the third only a little close to its root, the second more, and the third and fourth for more than half their lengths ; the neighbourhood of the white strongly shaded with black, as are all the rectrices near their roots. Outer tail-feathers in one specimen entirely black, showing, I presume, either that the particular specimen is a young male in moult, or



J. Wolf del.

M. & N. Hankart imp.

CYORNIS VIVIDA.

that the mature female at times partially acquires the masculine garb. I think the former, though this specimen is more of the proportions of the females, which are smaller and shorter in the wing than those of adult males.

*Cyornis vivida**, nobis (Ibis, 1864, p. 363), ♀, shot November 1865. This specimen has a decidedly shorter bill than the ordinary run of males. Bill blackish-brown. Legs and claws brown. Head and hind-neck deep ashy-grey, which colour mingles with olive on the back. On the rump the olive stands alone. Quills and tail hair-brown, washed with olive, and margined on the coverts with reddish olive-green, and on the quills with light olive-buff. Tail brown, tinged with red, and broadly margined with reddish, chiefly towards its base. Lores, orbits, and throat buff, mottled with olivaceous. Axillaries and vent yellow-ochre. Quills on the under-wing edged interiorly with whitish. Middle of the belly and flanks with more or less pure white; rest of under parts light olivaceous, washed with light buff, and here and there smeared with ochreous-buff. Wing 3.5 inches long. Size that of the male. This specimen has *one* vivid blue feather on the hind-neck, and one of the scapulars is edged with blue. The tibiae are brownish-olive.

Another specimen, also apparently a female, has a longer bill and is of similar sober plumage, but has the coronal feathers tinged with blue in the middle and a touch of blue on several feathers of the back and rump.

Graucalus rex-pineti shows no tinge of olive in the adult. Space round the bill, the orbits, and the entire face, throat, and under-neck are black, getting fainter on the breast. The specimens vary much in all their proportions, and by their variation in hue seem to show the bird to be some time in acquiring the full plumage, maturely-clad individuals being rare. Judging from a comparison of specimens, I do not believe that there is any constant difference between the sexes. I saw in England a skin very similar to our adult bird. I forget whence it came; but

* [As on two former occasions, we avail ourselves of the kindness of M. Jules Verreaux to illustrate the present paper by a figure (Plate XI.) of the type-specimen of this species, which he has sent us for that purpose.—ED.]

it was marked *G. macii*. Dr. Jerdon's descriptions are apparently from young individuals.

1867
37 *Dendrocitta sinensis*, var. *formosæ*, in the adult state has a white belly and nearly white rump. These appear to be its chief differences in colouring from the *D. sinensis* of India. Mr. Blyth says (Ibis, 1865, p. 45) that the Indian *D. himalayensis* differs from the Chinese bird. Where did he see *D. sinensis* from China? I am not aware that the species has ever been procured from that country *proper*.

1867
33 On the 25th of January I got from the central mountains my second Formosan specimen of *Herpornis xantholeuca*, Hodgson. This strikes me as being even more typical than the one I procured in the neighbourhood of Tamsuy.

The Chinese Wild Duck that I received from Ningpo some years ago, and which I set down (P. Z. S. 1863, p. 324) as identical with *Anas pæcilorhyncha* of India, by no means answers to Dr. Jerdon's description of that bird. It is of similar style of coloration, but has an ochreous band across the bill like *Anser segetum*. I think a specimen of it is in my collection at present under the charge of Mr. Tristram. I will name it temporarily
1867
207 + 176 ANAS ZONORHYNCHA. It is probably the same species that Temminck notes from Japan as intermediate between *A. boschas* and *A. pæcilorhyncha*.

I was up the river the other day with a friend who carried a gun. A *Rallus striatus* appeared on the bank. My friend shot at it, when it ran and shoved its head into a hole. We picked it up, and found that the only injury it had received was a small shot-wound on the tip of the middle toe of one foot. I brought it home, caged it, and fed it on rice and water, on which it seemed to thrive. It is now alive and well in an aviary at Amoy.

Temenuchus sinensis, *Lanius lucionensis*, and *Phyllopneuste sylvicultrix* pass the winter in Formosa.

On the 31st of January I received a bird which I name
SIPHIA INNEXA, sp. nov.

Bill black and *Saxicoline* in side aspect; viewed from above, broad at base and narrowing to tip. Legs pale, with a plumbeous tinge; feet *Muscicapine*, with attenuated tarsus and longish claws. Upper parts, sides of breast, and axillaries dusky

cyaneous, blackened on sides of the neck. Lores and space round bill black. A few of the feathers of the frontal portion of the supercilium white on their apical halves, forming a partial eyebrow. Under parts ferruginous-buff, olivaceous on the flanks, and white on the middle of the belly and on vent. All the under feathers with their basal or concealed halves dusky plumbeous. Tibiæ dusky. Quills deep hair-brown, edged with light reddish-brown and olivaceous; winglet deep blackish-brown; coverts the same, edged with dusky cyaneous, and occasionally with reddish-olive; tertials margined beneath with pale ferruginous. Tail blackish, margined with dusky cyaneous; all the rectrices, except the middle pair, having more or less pure white on their basal third, which is concealed by the upper tail-coverts, and only apparent when the tail is expanded. Tail 1·5 inch long, of twelve nearly equal mucronate feathers. Wing 2·3 inches long; the fifth quill slightly longer than the fourth, and longest; first quill small and narrow, ·75 inch shorter than the second, which is ·3 inch shorter than the third, the latter being ·1 inch shorter than the fourth. Whole length of bird 3·8 inches. Tarsus ·7 inch. Outer toe longer than the inner. The stems of the soft cyaneous upper feathers are whitish on their basal or concealed half. Axillaries mottled with a little of the ferruginous breast-colour. This species resembles most *S. superciliaris*, Blyth, but is to be distinguished from it by its black face and sides of the neck, and by the white base to most of its rectrices. It has also characters in common with the other three species, *S. strophciata*, Hodgs., *S. leucomelanura*, Hodgs., and *S. erythaca*, Blyth.

On the 8th of February I received a fine specimen of a female *Astur* (*Lophospiza*) *trivirgatus*. Length 16·25 inches; wing 9 inches; tail 7·6 inches. First quill 1·5 inch shorter than the second, which is more than ·8 inch shorter than the third, which is ·3 inch shorter than the fourth and fifth, the longest in the wing. The second to the fifth quills indented on the inner web, the first less sinuated. Tail of twelve nearly equal feathers; rectrices barred, the outer pair with only one faint bar near the base and an indistinct one near the tip. Legs yellow, claws black. Tarsi about 2·75 inches long, feathered for about 1·75 inch down the front; middle toe without the claw about 1·62

1875-
356

inch; claw of outer toe about the same size as that of the middle toe; inner toe shorter than the outer, with the claw nearly as large as that on hind toe. Eyelids black. Bill bluish-black, pale at base of the lower mandible and tinged with orange. Cere olive-green. (These parts, however, are not very fresh, and may have changed colour.) Occiput with a few lengthened acuminate feathers.

February 15.—A live *Palumbus pulchricollis*, Hodgs., that I had in a cage died this morning without giving me the opportunity of hearing its note. Base of bill and tumid cere pinkish-purple; apical half of bill pale yellow, with a slight tinge of lead-colour. Bare skin about the eye leaden-blue; eyelids black. Irides pearly, with a faint tint of yellow.

On the 1st of March was brought to me from the interior a Grass-Owl, which strikes me as new. It appears to have its nearest ally in *Strix candida*, Tickell, of India. It is called by the natives the "Monkey-face," and I will hence introduce it as

STRIX PITHECOPS, sp. nov.

Length 15 inches. Wing 13·2 inches. The second quill slightly shorter than the first, which is the longest in the wing. Tail 4·8 inches long, of twelve soft feathers. Tarsus nearly 3·6 inches long; middle toe and claw 2·5 inches. Bill yellowish horn-colour. Toes brownish flesh-colour, with greyish-brown claws. This bird answers in most respects to Dr. Jerdon's description of *S. candida*; but in ours the ruff is white; the tarsus is feathered for nearly half its length, being bare on the hind part of the tibial joint, and partly so along its posterior edge. A few short tufts of feathers were scattered down the tarsi to within an inch of the toes; and among these pale stiff procumbent bristles occur which extend along the upper surface of each toe. Dr. Jerdon's bird (B. Ind. i. p. 118) is "scarcely plumed at the knee." I take this to mean that the feathers scarcely extend beyond the joint where the tibia meets the tarsus. Our bird further differs in having a broad yellowish-buff collar round the neck, which is imperfect and disconnected at the back. It also has a band of bark-brown feathers varied with buff running across the breast. These two last are also not mentioned by Dr. Jerdon as characteristics of the allied Indian form. I should say

that I have no specimen of *S. candida* wherewith to make a comparison.

I received at the same time a specimen of *Salicaria cantans* of the 'Fauna Japonica.' At least it answers well to the description of that species, and recalls to my mind a bird bearing that name that I saw in the Leyden Museum. Length 5·5 inches; wing 2·8 inches; tail 2·4 inches. Fourth and fifth quills the longest in wing; first quill ·7 inch long; second ·4 inch shorter than third, which is ·2 inch shorter than the longest. Tail only moderately graduated. Bill blackish-brown, ochreous on the tomia, and orange at the gape; the base of the gonys somewhat pale. Legs deep brown, blacker on the toes and claws. The bird in stature is intermediate between *Calamoherpe canturians* and *Calliope*, but it has much the plumage of *Sylvia hortensis*. Its feet are heavy, and its claws thick and blunt; but the hind toe is not so disproportionately large as in *C. canturians* and *C. minuta*, its tail is much less, and its primary remiges are differently graduated. At a hasty glance one might mistake it for the immature *Calliope kamtschatkensis*; but there is no chance of confounding it with *Calamoherpe canturians*.

Adieu! "Cras ingens iterabimus æquor." Amoy-ward ho!

Takow, S.W. Formosa,
8 March, 1866.

On the 8th of March I received from the interior a male of my new *Strix pithecops*. The bird was being brought down alive, but died before it reached me. This specimen, examined before it was skinned, wanted the collar and pectoral band which I noted as specific characters in the specimen before described. I took down the following note of the bird:—Length 14·2 inches; wing 11 inches. Tail of eight feathers, bowed on its surface or hogged, 4 inches long. Angles where the two facial disks meet on the crown lined with deep blackish-brown. Bill pale flesh-coloured, nearly milky-white. Bare portion of tarsi and toes the colour of a labourer's rough scaly hand. Claws pale, with a tinge of brown, their culmens brown.

On the 8th of May a box of birds reached me from Formosa, the captures of my hunters in the interior after my departure for Amoy. One of the birds seems to be my *Tribura squameiceps*

1874

155

1875

(P. Z. S. 1863, p. 292); but unfortunately in this specimen the longest and most important feathers of the tail are missing. That procured by Captain Blakiston at Canton, from which the species was originally noted, had no tail at all! I can now say that the bird has a graduated tail. The most remarkable bird of the lot was a species which, in coloration and some other peculiarities, recalls the *Drymæca*, but has a short tail. It seems to me most nearly related to the genus *Horeites*; and to that I will for the present refer it:—

1867
22
HOREITES ROBUSTIPES, sp. nov.

Length 4 inches. Wing 1·9 inch; first quill short, fifth and sixth equal and longest. Tail 1·4 inch, of ten feathers, graduated and short. Tarsus, hind toe, and claws large, long, and strong, yellowish, washed with brown. Upper and apical third of lower mandible blackish-brown, yellowish on the edge. I have only two specimens. The bill of one is longer and more curved than that of the other. Upper parts of plumage olive-brown, tinged with reddish on the back and wings. Quills and wings generally hair-brown, except on their margins. Tail light hair-brown, edged with reddish-olive. Rump at base of tail yellowish-olive. Streak over the eye and underparts, including axillaries and edge of carpus, cream-colour, ochreous on the belly, and olivaceous-buff on breast, flanks, vent, and tibiae.

✓ In my trip to the mountains, having put up at a village, at an early hour I strolled up the hill to a clump of fine trees. On the bare branches of a large *Bombax malabaricum* I noticed a *Psaropholus ardens*; its bright crimson plumage made a lovely contrast with the dull red flowers of the tree, and the light green bursting leaves. I rushed back to our hut for a gun and shot him. He showed still the whitish underparts and streaks of immaturity. But the great question was solved. I had accepted hearsay evidence that its iris was *red*. I now found for myself that it was *white*, like that of its congener *P. trailli*. The white was encircled near the eyelids with a black rim. The eyelids were lead-colour. Bill bright French-blue. Tongue yellowish, with a broad black bifid tip. Stomach full of small figs, either of the banyan or some allied species. When picked up, the wounded bird screeched just as yellow Orioles do.

In penetrating into the mountain-forests we had no road to follow except what nature afforded in the nearly dry beds of torrents. We ascended one of these with high magnificent wood on either side. The contracted stream eddied and gurgled in rapid course over the rounded shingle, now and then expanding into small shallow tranquil pools, abounding in little spotted, striped Trout-like fish, or leaped with a roar and scattering of spray from some abruptly precipitous rock in the form of a cascade. The coolness of the shade by the side of the stream was delicious after our toilsome walk in the hot sun ; and the glimpses of the distance we caught occasionally through gaps in the jungle were truly enchanting. Butterflies, that are scarcely ever seen at this season (February), at Takow by the sea, were sporting in numbers about the boulder-masses in the stream, and birds innumerable were whistling in the trees. Verily this was the paradise of nature in Formosa. The sweet little crimson *Pericrocotus griseogularis*, with its crocus-tinted mate, was busy among the tall branches ; and on the tops of the tall trees the *Chaptia brauniana* sat perched, Drongo-like, uttering loud musical notes, and chasing each other with screams and undulating flight from tree to tree. Its ordinary notes may be syllabled " heeah muncha muncha." This is quite a bird of the high mountain-forests. I did not once see it in the plains, where *Dicrurus macrocerus* takes its place. The Chinese of the interior call the *Chaptia* the " Swa-na aw-tsew," or Drongo of the mountains. The lead-coloured Redstart *Ruticilla fuliginosa* with its unique speckled mate was occasionally seen sitting, either sex on a different rock in the stream, or whistling and chasing one another along its course. They shake the tail like the typical Redstarts, though Dr. Jerdon says they do not (*Birds of India*, vol. ii. p. 143), but have also a frequent habit of expanding it.

On a tree on the side of a hill on the opposite side of the stream I saw a Buzzard-like bird sitting. I walked up to what I considered within range and fired a cartridge at it. It rose, and to my astonishment I saw it was a *Spilornis hoyi*, mihi ✓ [*antea*, p. 304]. It took a circle and then flew over my head. I fired my loose charge, but without effect. The transparency of the mountain air had led me to mistake the distance ; and

what at the range I fired appeared to me a small Buzzard, was a no smaller bird than the Spotted Eagle.

February 21.—In some bamboos close to the mountain-village where we had passed the night, a *Sibia auricularis* was singing the same run of notes over and over again repeated with little variation. They were sweet and agreeable, but in style so like those of *Copsychus saularis*, that before I saw the bird I knew what the songster was.

One small species in a grove bothered me exceedingly. The little fellows were all over the trees, each one chattering and twittering, and moving about in a most desultory manner. I got at last a fixed glance at one of them, and observed that it had a white ring round the eye. I thought I had discovered a new species of *Zosterops*. I stood entranced, watching their antics. A small Woodpecker was crying near me. I turned from him. I did not heed a pair of *Hypsipetes* that were sitting and calling to one another on the top of the tree over head. At last with trembling hand I fired. Down fell the bird. I rushed to pick it up, and was just in time to snatch the booty from a *monstrum horrendum* in the form of a large *Tropidonotus* that was in the act of seizing it. But my bird was only the *Alcippe morrisonia*. My silent solitary acquaintance of a few days previously, when I had occasionally observed it clinging to the sides of trees like a Nut-hatch, was here in moderately large parties, and as noisy as any other noisy little species. Subsequently I heard the bird on many occasions uttering its loud harsh notes. It is in habits like a diminutive *Garrulax*.

Dicrurus, *Budytes*, *Motacilla*, and other birds of the plains were common enough on this cleared delta, between the two mountain-streams. The low woods were without leaves, and it was very hot. I tried to persuade my guides to descend and cross the stream to the mountain-jungle, but they said that they were leading me to the Green Doves. True enough, on the side of a rise they pointed out several Green Doves perched on the trees. We clambered up the hill, and on a high tree in the ravine on the other side sat a Green Dove. One of the hunters fired at it, but it only flew to another tree. I fired, and a shower of feathers was scattered from its rump. It flew still

further. A hunter crossed the ravine, and from the concealment of the bushes had two more shots at it. The bird nevertheless escaped. We crossed the ravine, and walking past a banyan perceived a commotion among its branches. Out came several Green Doves. I knocked one over. It was a fine male *Treron formosæ*. A little further on I bagged a female of the same species. The iris of the dying bird had alternate rings of bright purple and black, with an outer ring of blood-red. I descended into a ravine under some lofty leafy trees. Some green birds were hopping heavily about the top branches, very slow in their movements, tame, and not scared at the noise of a gun. I shot one, and picked up a *Megalæma nuchalis*. Its iris was chestnut; the feet pale grass-green. *Dendrocittæ* were passing from tree to tree with very undulating flight, and *Hypsipetes* was chasing *Zosterops*. The Sparrows about the mountain villages were the ordinary *Passer montanus*.

In the afternoon we visited a delightful glen, with fine wood all round it. Here *Sibia auricularis* was the commonest bird, flying in parties one after the other along the high branches of the trees. Its call-note was very like the sibilant note of a Wren (*Troglodytes europæus*), and its habits very like that of a Tree-Garrulax. One would occasionally whistle to another. One of my hunters put up an *Oreoperdix*, and found that it had deposited an egg, which was white, and quite similar to the one I had procured before. *Bambusicolæ* were crying all around us. The Green Dove, too, we heard, and I then learned what the Chinese meant by comparing its note to the shouting of women to their pigs. It sounded like a man with a bad ear and a loud voice attempting to coo like a dove. The noise was quite startling. I procured a mature *Turtur rupicolus* (Pall.). Several Crows (*Corvus colonorum*) were flying about, and *Garrulax taivanus* and *Pomatorhinus musicus* both abundant. In the mud of the watercourse I detected the footprints of some large Wader. The hunters said that they were made by the feet of Cormorants; but there were no indications of the interdigital web. They must have been those of the Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*). A pair of dark Heron-like birds with red bills and legs were seen by a friend on a former visit to the interior. From

1867
42

his description of them I concluded that they must have been the Black Stork or some cognate species of *Ciconia*. They were not known to the residents of the interior; and I thence infer that they were only straggling winter wanderers.

By the side of a mountain-stream I saw a *Butorides javanica*; and a Cormorant, I think the ordinary species, came flying down on rapid wing. The guides shouted "There is the Stork you so much want." This was on the 22nd. We were marching over the rough path by the side of a torrent, and were, on our guard against treacherous attacks from any skulking savage, all armed with guns, matchlocks, or spears. We took a long rest under the shade of a tree hard by a wood. Green Doves appeared. One of the hunters dropped away and bagged a male. It was the white-bellied species, *Sphenocercus sororius* [anteà, p. 311]. In mature specimens the male has a fine glow of buff on the breast and forehead. By the banks of the stream occasional raised patches of stones covered with coarse grass occurred. In these lay hid Goatsuckers (*Caprimulgus stictomus*), which fluttered up before us to drop again into the grass a few paces further on. As they steal along on silent wing at night they utter occasionally a subdued croak.

On the 24th of February I spied a *Graucalus rex-pineti* sitting on a high tree over my head. His notes sounded like "queer-queer" uttered nasally. I also observed a pair of *Parus insperatus*, in manners a good deal like the Great and Coal Titmice.

About twenty miles from Takow, on the plains, I saw a *Corvus colonorum*. This is the first instance that has come under my notice of this bird occurring away from the mountain-range.

I have just picked out a few jottings from my journal on the birds seen in the interior. I have not now time to spin a yarn on my travels. This I must reserve to some future date. I left Takow on the 11th of March and on the 13th reached Amoy, where I am now a fixture for some time to come.

Through the kind assistance of Mr. Thomas Watters, who is Acting-Consul in my place at Taiwan, I am able to keep my hunters in Formosa still at work; and it is through his good

offices that I have been able to procure the species that I have acquired since leaving Formosa. With the birds noted in the commencement of this paper I received from Formosa a *Micronisus*, which answers well to Dr. Jerdon's description of the male *M. virgatus*; but as I do not know the species, I cannot say with confidence that it is that bird. It was shot about the end of March 1866.

On the 11th of May Captain Ebert, of the British schooner 'Pearl,' brought me an adult *Micronisus soloensis*, which flew on board his vessel a few days before at the Pescadores. Its cere and legs are bright orange; its claws are black. It has the spotless cream-white axillaries. Its tarsi and toes are short and thick, as compared with those of the supposed *M. virgatus*. From its occurring at the Pescadores we are justified in adding it to the Formosan list.

Two adult specimens of *Gorsachius goisagi* were also received: one is marked with more vivid chestnut than the other. They correspond with Bonaparte's description of the species in his 'Conspectus.' The crest of the adult in summer dress is long, and composed of several rather broad feathers, and similar in style to that of *Butorides javanica*. In winter the crest seems to fall, leaving the head smooth and plain chestnut, instead of being capped and crested with cinereous-black plumes. This seasonal change is the chief cause for the confusion in determining the species. The young bird described in the 'Conspectus' would appear to be this species in winter dress. The true fledged nestling I have already described [*suprà*, p. 123] from a pair that I kept alive at Takow. It is a species of the jungly interior, and occurs rarely on the plains.

I think I must have been wrong in referring the *Turnix rostrata* (Ibis, 1865, p. 543) to the *T. dussumieri* division of Jerdon and Blyth. I have lately received two or three more males, similar to the first; one I got with the chicks. I have also some from the same locality, which I take to be females. They have a much deeper bill, which varies in length, depth, and even somewhat in form in individuals. Their forehead, cheeks, and throat are black, speckled with white, and they are

1867
1731867
232

larger than the male in all their proportions. They have, too, stronger legs; and the spots on the breast of the male are in the female converted into numerous black zigzag transverse bands. Both sexes differ in proportions *inter se*, and also in markings; but all lately procured have the black and the patches of reddish on the upper parts more pronounced than in the male I took as my type for establishing the species. This last was shot much later in the season. Specimens of *T. taigoor*, Sykes, that I received from Dr. Squire are also very variable. If I am right in considering the black-throated bird the female of the *T. rostrata* (and I now feel almost convinced that I am), the species will belong to the *T. ocellata* division. At Tamsuy (North-western Formosa) I saw a pair of a *Turnix* that were shot, in which the sexes did not differ. They looked to me at the time very like *T. maculosa*, Temm., of China; but, as they were high, I unfortunately could not preserve them.

A *Bambusicola sonorivox* procured in March at Takow is very pale in colour. The chestnut and grey on its plumage remain, the former in all its normal strength; but the black colouring-matter is wanting, even in the bill, probably owing to some constitutional weakness in this individual bird.

The Formosan Ring-necked Pheasant differs from the typical *Phasianus torquatus* of China, not only in the albescent of its lateral feathers, but also in its shorter tail and smaller size. I have a few alive in my aviary here at Amoy, but the variety is scarcely distinct enough to warrant my sending the birds home: I am waiting for Pheasants from this neighbourhood to enable me to institute a full comparison. The Hankow Pheasant has a long and closely barred tail; and I suspect on thorough investigation several good races of the *P. torquatus* will be found to exist in the large tract of country that constitutes the Chinese empire.

I have been so unsuccessful in getting live examples of *Euplocamus swinhoii* home, that I have had an aviary built here, and stocked it chiefly with birds of this species. I intend to keep them for some time to get them into thorough condition, and then try further shipments. Those I have, though several

months in confinement, are still shy birds, and skulk in holes the greater part of the day. They frequently utter a plaintive note "co-co-co-coo," the last a low wail, almost impossible to syllable. One fine skin of a hen I have got has a snow-white patch on the crown and a few white feathers on the side of the jaws. In other respects it is normal. The second-year plumage of the young cock is very peculiar. The bare cheek-skin is well developed into comb and wattles, but the spurs are not full-grown. The tail, in shape and size, is a good deal similar to that of the hen bird. The underparts are dull black, with very little of the purplish gloss. The quills are deep hair-brown; and the tail is black, with very slight chestnut mottling. The wing-coverts, the lower part of the back and rump, and the ample margin of the secondaries are transversely barred with narrow alternate wavy lines of deep chestnut-brown and black. A few of the scapulars and lesser wing-coverts have their middle buff. The head and neck are purplish-black, and the crown white. The upper back is purplish-black, many of the feathers being broadly centred with white, and having broad maroon-chestnut margins. *The back-mantle is deep chestnut.* At a younger stage the crown also is black. The crown seems to be the first part to develop the white feathers of maturity. The other *Euplocami* may be found to have corresponding intermediate forms of the male.

The single egg of *Euplocamus swinhoii* that I possess is well ovate, being somewhat pointed at one end, 2·4 inches long by 1·7 inch at greatest breadth. It is of a buff-cream colour, very minutely dotted with white.

I have lately received a second specimen of *Hydrophasianus chirurgus* from Takow. This has the axillaries a pure unmottled white, and seems to be every whit the same as specimens from the Himalaya.

A friend who visited the interior of Formosa from Takow reports having flushed from thick covert on a mountain-side a pair of Partridge-like birds, a good deal larger than either of the two species already known. I could learn nothing about it from the natives. Another friend declares that one of his party shot a Partridge at Kelung (North Formosa) the size of *Bambusicola*,

but of different plumage. This last will probably have been the immature *Bambusicola sonorivox*.

Amoy, 17 June, 1866.

. The following is an extract from a letter, dated "4th May, 1866," from Mr. Swinhoe, which unfortunately did not reach us until after the publication of our last Number. "If you have not yet printed my paper on recent novelties from Formosa, I must ask you to correct an error for me. I have now a goodly series of Green Pigeons, and find them to be as variable in colour, form, and size of bill, and other proportions, as Mr. Darwin could desire. I think I was wrong in making *three* species. The skins of the first *Sphenocercus sororius* that I received were so badly stuffed that I could not then reconcile them with what I considered the third form, my *Treron chaeroboeatis* [anteà, p. 313]. Now, however, after examining a large series, I consider the two last to be identical, and I should be obliged by your uniting them under the first name, *Sphenocercus sororius*. *Treron formosæ* is a good species; but, with the exception of some slight differences in the tail, I think there is scarcely enough to justify the two forms being referred to distinct genera, though I believe I am right in referring *sororius* to *Sphenocercus*, and *formosæ* to *Treron*."—ED.

XXXII.—*Note on the Distribution of the Species of Chasmorhynchus.* By P. L. SCLATER, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S.

IN Mr. Salvin's excellent article upon the wonderful Bell-bird of Costa Rica (*Chasmorhynchus tricarunculatus*) and its allies, published in last year's 'Ibis' (1865, p. 90), he follows M. Temminck and myself* in giving "Brazil" as the locality of *C. variegatus*. I have lately discovered that this locality, vague as it is, is most probably altogether incorrect. During my visit to Copenhagen last year, Professor Reinhardt was kind enough to show me an example of this species in the Royal Museum, obtained by a correspondent of that Institution, M. Schibby, near Valencia, in Venezuela. In the 'Museum Heineanum' (vol. ii. p. 108) Messrs. Cabanis and Heine give Puerto Cabello, on the coast of the same republic, as the

* Cat. Am. Birds, p. 258.